

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
25 August 2005 (25.08.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/079001 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H04L 12/24**, 29/00

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/CA2005/000194

(22) International Filing Date: 16 February 2005 (16.02.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

2,457,909	16 February 2004 (16.02.2004)	CA
60/544,341	17 February 2004 (17.02.2004)	US
2,464,274	20 April 2004 (20.04.2004)	CA
2,467,063	17 May 2004 (17.05.2004)	CA
2,471,929	22 June 2004 (22.06.2004)	CA
2,476,928	16 August 2004 (16.08.2004)	CA
2,479,485	20 September 2004 (20.09.2004)	CA

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: NETWORK ARCHITECTURE

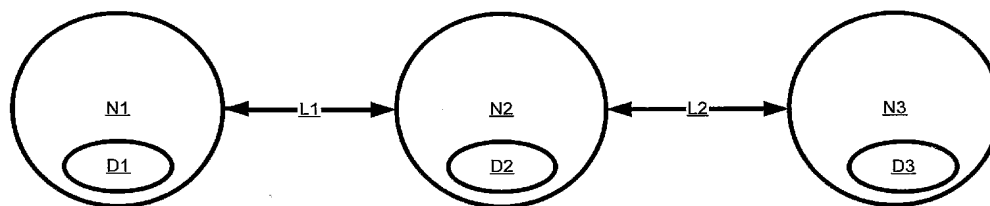


Table II
Initial contents of Database D1

Rank	Node name	Best Neighbour
Ø	N1	N/A

Table III
Initial contents of Database D2

Rank	Node name	Best Neighbour
Ø	N2	N/A

Table IV
Initial contents of Database D3

Rank	Node name	Best Neighbour
Ø	N3	N/A

(57) **Abstract:** The present invention provides a network architecture. An embodiment includes a plurality of nodes interconnected by links. Each node can maintain knowledge of other nodes in a database. The database contains a list of other nodes in the network, and a 'next-best-step' for each of those other nodes, pointing to a neighbouring node that is the next best step to that other node. Where a particular node of the network is not in the list, then the next-best-step is assumed to be the next-best-step most commonly identified in the database. Such a network will form a "core" wherein any node in the network can find any other node in the network by first seeking out that other node at the core. Once the nodes locate each other via the core, a more optimum route forms in the network according to the most desirable path between those nodes.

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